

join me in recognition of this well deserved honor.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ABIGAIL C. CHUDZINSKI ON HER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young lady from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Abigail C. Chudzinski. Abby has recently accepted her appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Abby, who is from Fremont, Ohio, will be graduating from St. Joseph Central Catholic High School, and will be preparing for one of the most challenging, rewarding, and educational opportunities of her life: her four-year commitment to the United States Naval Academy.

During her high school career at St. Joseph Central Catholic, Abby has distinguished herself as an exceptional student and a gifted student-athlete. She is currently carrying a 4.35 grade point average, which places her second in a class of eight-six students. She is a member of the National Honor Society, and it listed in the Who's Who Among American High School Students. Abby and her family can certainly be proud of her outstanding scholastic efforts.

Abby has also proven herself as a truly talented and gifted student-athlete. She was the Captain of the Varsity Track and Field Team, and has won numerous league, district, and regional awards in the sport. In addition, Abby has been active in the Key Club, Student Council, and is the President of the St. Joseph High School Band. And, last summer, she participated in the United States Air Force Academy Summer Scientific Seminar.

Mr. Speaker, each year, I have the opportunity to nominate young men and women for appointment to the nation's military academies. I am pleased that Abby has accepted her appointment, and will be joining the incoming Naval Academy Class of 2002. I am sure she will do very well. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Abigail Chudzinski, and in wishing her well in her future endeavors.

VMI MAKES THE RIGHT MOVES

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends this May 19, 1998, Omaha World-Herald editorial on the Virginia Military Institute to his colleagues. The Virginia Military Institute is to be complimented for the successful integration of female cadets into an institution that had been a traditional male bastion until the rending of a 1996 U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The Virginia Military Institute has been successful because of its sincere effort

to promote co-educational programs that would foster the positive acceptance and inclusion of women into the institution, and for these reasons are again to be commended.

VMI MAKES THE RIGHT MOVES

Virginia Military Institute, like The Citadel, had a long and proud tradition of educating men and providing military training and discipline. Both Virginia state colleges fought against federal rules requiring them to admit women if they wanted to continue getting public funding.

Both schools fought the order in court. The U.S. Supreme Court decided against VMI in 1996, as it had against The Citadel in 1995. The ruling was not popular. VMI alumni considered buying the college and making it into a private institution rather than go co-ed.

But when the ruling was issued and officials studied the situation, they decided to take the honorable path. They not only admitted women to the institute; they accommodated them.

The women who went to the college last fall were held to the same physical and mental standards as male students. They were yelled at, given push-ups and forced marches, shorn of their hair and sent through obstacle courses, all the while carrying a full college course load.

No quarter given. That is as it should be. Standards are standards.

But VMI was not grudging in its acceptance of co-education. It actively recruited qualified women, winding up with 30 in a class with 430 men. It held seminars on avoiding sexual harassment—required seminars for cadets, faculty and staff.

It hired a female assistant commandant and a female admissions officer. It asked the nation's military academies, which went co-ed 22 years ago, for advice. It brought in female upperclassmen from military programs in Vermont and Texas to act as big sisters for female freshmen.

Seven of the women who enrolled in September quit before finishing. But none cited sexual harassment or unfairness as a reason for leaving. Considering that 74 male freshmen left, too, the difference was not striking.

VMI deserves credit, not only for doing the right thing, but also for doing it the right way.

TRIBUTE TO ST. MARK'S WOMEN'S VARSITY ICE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to report to the House on a remarkable achievement—namely, the 1997–98 championship season of the St. Mark's Women's Varsity Ice Hockey Team. The St. Mark's Lions are based in Southborough, Massachusetts.

Each of these players are talented young student-athletes who trained hard, practiced hard and played hard throughout their amazing year. I know their families and friends are as proud of the Lions as I am. On behalf of the citizens of Central Massachusetts, I congratulate the St. Mark's Lions for a job very well done.

The team members are:

ST. MARK'S GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM 1997–98

No.	Position	Year	Name	Hometown
3	D	1998	Hilary Zwerdling	Shrewsbury, MA
4	F	2000	Gretchen Anderson	Wellesley, MA
5	F	1998	Emily Harris	Greenwich, CT
6	D	2000	Kristen Larsen	Dover, MA
10	F	2001	Amy McNaught	Gorham, ME
11	D	1998	Marcia Ingraham	Georgetown, MA
12	F	1999	Catherine Larsen	Dover, MA
13	D	2000	Emily Amorello	Worcester, MA
15	F	1999	Sarah Fairchild	Pawtucket, RI
16	F	1998	Hailey Sullivan	Carlisle, MA
18	D	2000	Kristina Tois	Grafton, MA
20	F	1998	Melissa Yokell	Atkinson, NH
21	F	1998	Maura Crowell	Mansfield, MA
29	G	1999	Melissa Glaser	Rockford, IL

Coaches: Wendy Cofran, Dana Pullman.
Captains: Maura Crowell '98, Hilary Zwerdling '00.
Manager: Heather Bates '00.

A recent article in the St. Mark's School newspaper brings to life their championship season and the wonderful team of young women who enjoyed this terrific experience:

[From the St. Marker, May 13, 1998]

GIRLS' ICE HOCKEY WINS THE NEW ENGLANDS!
(By Assistant Editor Allison Lorentzen '99)

On Sunday March 8, another amazing group of St. Mark's women hockey players captured the title New England Champions. Just four months after the Varsity Field Hockey team beat Cushing for the Class B NEPSAC title, the Varsity Ice Hockey team has the pleasure of crushing Middlesex in a 3-0 victory to earn the Division 2 Championship.

At the beginning of the season, the team, with a new coaching staff, was focused on regaining respect from the other ISL teams and hadn't thought ahead too much to the possibility of such a successful post-season. In past years, the St. Mark's team, with players such as Wendy Hall, Laurie Belliveau, and Erin Magee, was feared by their league opponents, as they were league champions in '92, '93 (co-champs), and '94 (co-champs). Maura Crowell made the team in the '94-'95 season as a third former and played with some of the women who developed this tradition of excellence. Experiencing the thrill of playing for such an awesome team, Cromwell looked forward to her next three years as a varsity player; but with the arrival of two new coaches in her fourth form year, she, along with new-comers Hilary Zwerdling, Marcia Ingraham, Melissa Yokell and Emily Harris, suffered through two disappointing seasons. After two seasons well under .500, another change was called for in the coaching staff.

Under the direction of head coach Wendy Cofran and her assistant, Dana Pullman, this year's team trained harder than in the past two years and collected many more wins for their efforts. Capturing their Holiday Tournament gave them confidence and hope for more victories later in the season. These victories did come, including a nail-biting, overtime 3-2 win over St. Paul's down in New York City. As the regular season was drawing to a close St. Mark's rolled by Portsmouth Abbey, Brooks, and BB&N. After handling Groton 6-2, the team clinched a place in the New England Tournament.

With an undefeated record in their division, the team, seeded first, was matched up against fourth seed Greenwich Country Day and had a week of practice to prepare for the semifinal game on March 7 at Cushing Academy. As St. Markers put away their squash racquets, basketballs, and ice skates and dusted off their lacrosse sticks, baseball gloves, and tennis racquets, the Women's Varsity Ice Hockey Team, led by two year co-captains Maura Crowell and Hilary Zwerdling, laced up their skates for a final week, perfecting power plays and strengthening slap shots. After leading the school in a

unique cheer, they departed for the western Mass mecca of ice hockey, Cushing Academy. Greenwich, no match for the women of St. Mark's, skated off the Cushing rink 2-0 losers, leaving the Lions to face Middlesex on Sunday for the New England Championship.

St. Mark's came to the game having played Middlesex once during the regular season, beating the Zebra's 2-1, and they knew that it would be an exciting game. From the face off, St. Mark's controlled the puck and frustrated Middlesex with their solid defense, held together by their spectacular goalie Melissa Glaser, who simply would not let the puck into her net. Every attempt made by the Zebras was foiled by Glaser and her defense, which consisted of only three players—Zwerdling, Ingraham, and Kirsten Larsen—who had to play double shifts for the entire game. At the other end of the rink, St. Mark's offense kept up a relentless attack on the Middlesex's goalie. In the first period, the Lions scored twice: first on a tip-in by Gretchen Anderson from a Crowell slap shot, and again on a break away by Amy McNaught. St. Mark's skated off the ice after the period up 2-0, knowing that if they continued their offensive pressure and held back Middlesex they could win the game and the New England Championship. Another Anderson goal assisted by Crowell, during a Middlesex power play, along with many sensational saves by Glaser and her dependable defense, gave the Lions a 3-0 lead at the end of the second period. As Middlesex skated onto the ice before the third period, they were preparing for another fifteen minutes of offensive frustration. As the clock rolled down to 11.6 seconds and Glaser caught a flying Middlesex slap shot, the St. Mark's team seemed to spectators to win the New England's as easily as Glaser snatched that puck into her glove.

Winning the Division 2 New England Prep School ice Hockey Championship culminates a season that brought back the respect St. Mark's women's ice hockey held in the early nineties. With eight experienced players and two aggressive coaches returning for the '98-'99 season, expect the team to reunite next year as a might force in the ISL and all of New England.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT LEE ON THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, much has been written and said about the economic growth and political advances made by the Republic of China during the last few years. Taiwan's achievements are respected throughout the world. Much of the credit is due to Taiwan's political leadership.

Taiwan is led by Cornell-educated Dr. Lee Teng-hui, who was elected Taiwan's ninth president and inaugurated on May 20, 1996. His running mate was Dr. Lien Chan. Other government leaders include Foreign Minister Jason Hu and Representative Stephen Chen. While Vice President Lien Chan has worked to maintain stability and respect for the law at home, Minister Hu wisely exerts Taiwan's presence abroad, having recently visited Africa and a number of southeast Asian countries seeking new friends for his country. In the meantime, Representative Stephen Chen has assiduously briefed us on the Hill of all the re-

cent happenings in Taiwan. Representative Chen is a tireless diplomat.

Together, Taiwan's leaders have continued to bring their people economic progress and an improved political climate. The Republic of China is a young dynamic nation and a model for the developing world. On the occasion of President Lee's second anniversary in office, I wish to extend my congratulations to President Lee and his people.

COMPETITION IN THE VIDEO SERVICES INDUSTRY

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring a study on competition in video services by the Hudson Institute to the attention of my colleagues.

Price inflation in cable television service is causing some policy makers to suggest renewing rate regulation—that is, re-regulating cable prices. While it is the case that there have been notable price increases by some cable systems, to recommend extending price controls is to ignore the realities of the marketplace and the lessons of the past.

It is important to note that these cost increases are authorized under the 1992 Cable Act, which I opposed. Indeed, it is my view that passage of the Cable Act did little to keep down prices, that it resulted in reduced capital investment and a stagnation of services offered by the industry, and that the regulations themselves proved to be a costly and inefficient expense.

The rate regulation imposed by the Cable Act increased the cost of capital to cable systems and prevented many from upgrading their systems. One of the major goals of the 1996 Telecommunications Act was to promote competition and investment in the delivery of video services to the home. Under the Telecommunications Act, rates for cable services beyond the basic tier are to be deregulated three years after enactment. The Act also removed the statutory ban on telephone companies offering video services within their regions.

While competition to incumbent cable operators may not be growing as quickly as anticipated, it is significant nonetheless. The regional telephone company Ameritech is building cable systems throughout the Midwest to compete alongside existing cable operators. Upwards of ten percent of households in the market have Direct Broadcast Satellite service, and wireless cable service is expanding as well. Technological improvements in the area of satellite broadcasting alone promise more choices for video consumers.

Equally as important, the cable industry has been investing to provide competition in new areas, such as Internet access, local telephony, and Personal Communications Services. Cable firms also are leaders in the use of fiber optic and digital compression technology, and have been upgrading their systems to provide customers with a greater range of programming choices.

Having made the case for competition and against price controls, I must add that I am not satisfied with the current state of competition

in video services. I believe that it is entirely appropriate for Congress to reexamine program access rules, copyright laws, and other potential barriers to free and open competition. As Vice-Chairman of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection, I am committed to see full-blown competition and choice in video programming.

Mr. Speaker, I again commend the following executive summary of the Hudson Institute study to the attention of all Members.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In late 1997 and early 1998, concerns have been raised among regulators, members of Congress, and consumer groups regarding cable television rates. This study analyzes the rationale for new efforts by the FCC to limit rates or impose other regulations on the cable television industry in response to such concerns. It examines the historical record of cable regulation, takes a new look at the state of competition for multichannel video programming, reviews the important capital investment in new digital services by the industry, and assesses the possible impact of new price controls on competition in the wider telecommunications market, including Internet access, telephony, and video programming.

The study finds that, despite current market share of around 85.6 percent (falling to around 75 percent by 2002); dynamic services offered by Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS), broadcast television, and other multichannel video delivery systems provide substantial and growing competition for cable television. More than 65 percent of households can receive six or more broadcast channels with a suitable antenna. For many households, DBS offers greater levels of service at prices comparable to or lower than, cable's. DBS appears to provide a good substitute for cable even after accounting for up-front equipment costs. Competing cable systems (overbuilds and Satellite Master Antenna (TV) have become cost-effective and are growing rapidly, especially in the Midwest and Northeast.

The study also finds that past cable regulation, especially rate controls, provided little or no benefit to consumers, and in fact harmed consumers by inducing lower quality of service. On the other hand, periods of less regulation, such as the years between 1984 and 1990, stimulated production of greater quality and wider choice of programming for consumers, produced steady increases in demand for cable, and produced net consumer welfare gains of \$3 billion to \$6.5 billion per year.

Finally, the evidence shows that the cable industry is in the midst of investing up to \$28 billion to improve its infrastructure, including over \$1 billion per year to convert to interactive digital services. The entry of cable firms into new businesses such as telephony, Internet, and digital video is improving consumer choice and reducing prices for these services, especially to residential customers; spurring a competitive response from the telephone industry to upgrade its data transmission capabilities; and giving a boost to the introduction of digital television and to competition in the Internet business. An imposition of rate controls similar to those of 1993 and 1994 would undermine the financial basis for the cable industry to enter these new businesses in the near term, and hence weaken competition in the wider telecommunications market place.